

REMARKS

Claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-17 and 19 are active. No new matter has been added by entry of the amendment.

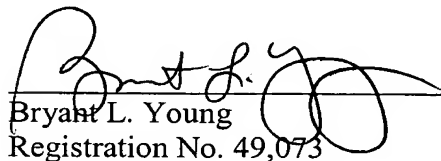
Applicants thank Examiner Petkovsek for the indication of allowability in Claims 1-17 and 19. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that Claim 18 is patentably distinct from the remaining pending claims. Claim 18 has now been canceled and Applicants reserve the right to pursue this canceled claim in one or more divisional applications.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging their claim for foreign priority and for indicating that the foreign priority documents have been received. Further, Applicants thank the Examiner for considering all the Information Disclosure Statements submitted to date.

This application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon


Bryant L. Young
Registration No. 49,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)